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SOURCE Minju Choson

P'YONGYANG PAPER CRITICIZES OFFICIALS
FOR INEFFICIENCY AND EMBEZZLEMENT

On 6 April 1953, an attack on the leading officials of an employees benefit project written by a reporter, Yu In-yong, was published in the P'yongyang Minju Choson. The employees benefit project is a cooperative farm project set up by government agencies to secure extra food supplies and other necessities for the agency employees and to which the employees contribute labor. The article criticized the managers of a project established in the Ministry of Agriculture, who had been "extremely apathetic to the idea of securing a sure means of life" the government employees. To correct the situation, the article said that the managers should make honest self-criticism and "ideologically" accept party and government instructions.

The article attacked the managers for their failure to plan the farming program in advance, their failure having caused delays in rice transplanting, weeding, and other chores on the 20 chongbo (one chongbo is 2.45 acres) of paddies and vegetable gardens operated last year by the employees of the Ministry of Agriculture. The article also criticized the managers for selling for profit a part of the chemical fertilizer allocated to them.

Pointing out that the same inefficiency has been repeated again for this year's project, the article charged that project managers are still scouring the markets for vegetable seeds which should have been planted by now. It added that: In distributing farm products last year, the managers disregarded the different amount of work each employee had contributed, and distributed an equal quantity of products to all employees. The mess hall for the managers received more food than that of the employees who had actually contributed longer hours for the project. Sometimes the managers illegally sold their government-issued food ration for profit while depending for their food on the shares received from the project.

According to the article, the managers, failing to utilize rationally the labor provided by the employees, hired expensive outside laborers who were paid with farm products. A manager embezzled over 20,000 won from the project's revenue.

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The article also stated that the managers admitted spending some of the project fees collected from the employees on automobile parts for their own use.

The article concluded by saying that "these facts prove that the project managers are not fully aware of the vital significance of the employees benefit project."

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